4/14/71

Dear Gary,

A brief feeding of paranoia, slight good news, and a slight change.

Jerry did two things at my request, one requiring virtually no encouraging. That was taking the very nice secretary of the Bandy show to lunch. She told him that the second one (where I confronted Huie and Dwyer) got the largest mail and phone response they'd had. ~~xx~~ She personally send me the letters. They haven't arrived in two weeks. By remarkable coincidence, yeterday I got from Dick what he'd mailed about March 8, the internal date. No cancellation on t he stamps. And, because this made me curious, I checked the flap, which had been resealed carelessly, the rubber cemenet used not being allowed to dry first. It peeled easily, no bit of paper adhering to the other piece.

Apparently Metromedia is applying the pressure to its own shows. Midday had asked me to do their show, and the pubs had agreed. We did not make the request. It was cancelled eith the explanation that was because I had done the Bandy show twice. But the reason they had asked me to begin with is because the Bandy people, from the reaction they got, had urged it. The shows are 12 hours apart in the day, Bandy is Sat nites, Midday at noon weekd ays only. Nobody who kno s the media believes the reason. Perhaps the real reason lies in their not having supplied the promised tapes. They assured me of what was aired, said they'd try and get what was taped (close to half the second was edited out, ~~x~~ and I'd wangled a few usefulx items from both). The delay is from the legal dept. There is no legal issue at all. This means only pressure. I am willing to assume self-imposed.

He also phoned the very nice secretary at the publishers, who placed an ad in yesterda y's Times that I've not seen by heard about from Baltimore today, from a friend who did see it. Even Jerry had missed it. If it lacked real competence, it was, nonetheless, an ad. I presume it is in reaction to my insistence upon compliance with the contractual obligation for maximum ad and pr effort, if only to have a defense against charges I might ~~bright~~ bring of violation. With the book out for more than a month, an ad, a single ad, is not premature. Anyway, she also told Jerry, when he said he'd spoken to me and I was unhappy about the silence, that she didn't blame me. Plus David sent me something two days ago, Harris yesterday, and she today. We'll see what it is when it arrives. They clearly had my letter Monday. Or shouldhave. I left here in a direct-to-NY bag.

I'm meeting Mayhew Saturday night, under thw worst possible conditions, at a dinner party at Bud's. Except for his wife, mine and perhaps Mayhew, and Jim if he is there (Jim is the best), they'll all be assassination paranoids. Sprague and Flammonde I know will both be there. Bud, who wrongly (he finds this a way of consoling himself), asked me not to fight with them. I reminded him that he'd seen us together in peace, even after I accused (and proved) Flammonde of plagiarism. I sent you what Mayhew sent me, that he could think of nothing he'd rather have than my files. Silence since. This is a rather late invitation, received yesterday, and then only when I phoned Bud. Today I had a letter from Mary, sent several days ago, saying that she and Arch were coming up for it. Whether impulse, oversight or request of one I do not know. But I'll find it interesting, trying to keep from fending off all that stuff that will be thrown into the fan, by those who don't recognize stuff and don't understand about fans.

Sincerely,